

I would like to express my concern regarding the National Assoc. of Broadcasters (NAB) attempt to bully its competition - satellite radio providers - from competing in local markets.

As an Over-The-Road Truck driver, I travel coast to coast and border to border throughout the US. Trying to keep track of where I could find local programming and having to constantly switch between stations to maintain a listenable signal strength or find programming that was to my taste was a real problem for me. Not only was it frustrating having to constantly switch stations as I travelled, but it was arguably also dangerous since my attention was diverted from my primary responsibility of safely moving my 80,000 pound vehicle down the road. Satellite radio offers me a consistently strong signal, a huge variety of programming, and perhaps most invaluable to me, LOCALIZED weather and traffic reports. Perhaps the most important part of this service to me is that I know at any time where I can find the information I need without having to go searching up and down the dial. Also, I can get localized information even when I'm not local! For example, when I pick up cargo in St Louis, I can find weather and traffic conditions in Chicago even while I'm still hundreds of miles away. With this information I can choose a travel route that circumvents problems or at least allows me to anticipate problems making for a safer and less stressful trip.

Living on the road is a tough life. XM satellite radio has made a huge contribution to increasing my quality of life and helps to make me a safer driver. Please consider that there are thousands of other drivers like me out there that benefit from these services which are provided at a VERY reasonable cost. Taking away these services would not only hurt us, it would also be an unfair stifling of competitive business practices which have made our country great and which I whole-heartedly support as an American consumer and voter.